

PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Consumer Product
Safety Commission
Office of Public Affairs
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CPSC, BRK ELECTRONICS ANNOUNCE
SMOKE DETECTOR RECALL

CHICAGO, ILL., (January 25, 1977) -- BRK Electronics, in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), reports today that the June 1976 recall of all BRK SS749 series smoke detectors manufactured before September 26, 1975, is proceeding well. BRK said all distributors who purchased the detectors have been contacted and with BRK's help, they are notifying the contractors who installed the detectors to organize factory-supervised replacement programs.

The recall was begun voluntarily by BRK when the company discovered that incorrectly rated resistors were used in the SS749 series smoke detectors produced from March 1974 to September 26, 1975. With prolonged use, these resistors could fail, making the unit inoperable and under certain circumstances, this could result in combustion inside the detector. Although the detector is enclosed in self-extinguishing plastic, the units are being recalled as a precautionary measure.

Only 110 volt AC-powered detectors are being recalled. These detectors sold for a suggested retail price of \$39.95. No battery powered detectors are involved. Some models were manufactured with pigtail leads (hard wire) intended for installation directly into the electrical wiring of the house, apartment or other structure to be protected. Other models were manufactured with ordinary power cords (line cord) to be plugged into wall outlets.

Both kinds were marketed by BRK and by American Machine & Foundry (AMF), I-T-E Imperial Corporation (I-T-E) and Sears, Roebuck & Company (Sears) on a private label basis. BRK model numbers were SS749AC & SS749ACS (hard wire units) and SS749L & SS749SL (line cord units). AMF model numbers were 2000AC (hard wire units) and 2000ACL (line cord units). I-T-E model number was IT01-AC (hard wire units). Sears model numbers were 9-57049 (hard wire units) and 9-57047 & 9-57048 (line cord units).

Homeowners who feel they may have one of the units under recall are urged to remove the cover and examine the side of the plastic base affixed directly to the wall or ceiling to find the model number which is printed on an attached label. Before inspecting hard-wired detectors, electrical power to the unit must be turned off at the house or apartment fuse box or circuit breaker. Line cord detectors must be unplugged before inspection.

If homeowners have one of the detectors under recall other than the Sears' models, they are urged to contact BRK, so that an "Inspection Sheet" giving very specific criteria for identifying recalled units can be sent to them. Homeowners with affected Sears units should contact their nearest Sears store which will make arrangements for inspection and free replacement if the unit contains the defect. If homeowners, after using the supplied "Inspection Sheet", find that they have a suspect unit, they are requested to follow the included replacement instructions or contact BRK Electronics, 780 McClure Avenue, Aurora, Illinois 60507, Attn: Dennis Wm. Clair, Project 749 Director, or call 312/898-9040 and ask for the Project 749 Department.

SNORKEL TRUCK NEARS COMPLETION

The Rudyard Fire Department is putting the finishing touches on the combination pumper-snorkel truck it has been building. Fire Chief Howard Conquergood reports the unit will be fully operational very soon and the department members will begin training on its operation this week. The basic truck was given to the Rudyard Fire Department by the Hill County Commissioners with the stipulation the Rudyard Department would provide the labor for its conversion into a firefighting unit. The county officials also requested the Rudyard Department to train personnel on its operation and provide county wide service with the unit if and when any need may arise. The county will be providing the capitol for equipment and supplies along with a grant obtained by the Rudyard Department from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The truck originally saw service with the military as an aircraft maintenance truck.

Modifications being completed by the Rudyard Department include a 750 gal/min pump unit, modern and efficient nozzles, adequate equipment and hoses, communication system and other changes which will bring it into compliance with the National Fire Protection Association standards and codes.

The Rudyard Fire Department is gaining a very valuable piece of equipment incorporating pumping power as well as the aerial advantages the snorkel boom with an extended height of 50 feet will provide. The gain to the department and the fire district it protects is costing only some long hours of labor and whatever additional costs incurred in providing housing, such as heat and lights.

The Rudyard Fire Department once again thanks the district and the public in general for their support and pledges their continued efforts to provide the best possible protection. The department invites the public to step in and view the facilities and equipment made possible by their support. The meeting and training room is all but complete thanks to donations by private parties and memorials and has definitely improved the attendance at the two meetings a month held by the department for training and equipment maintenance.

(Article provided by Howard Conquergood, Fire Chief, Rudyard Fire Department)

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The Fire Marshal Bureau would be happy to receive any items of interest from all the fire departments in the state. If any of you have any good ideas on fire prevention programs, fire training, etc. please contact us. We want to know what your ideas are.

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RELIEF ASSOCIATION AUDITS

Due to inquiries regarding the Relief Association audits conducted by the Local Government Services Division, this office contacted that department to inquire as to the frequency of the audits and the payment for that audit by the Relief Associations.

As of July 1, 1976, the law regarding the auditing of Relief Associations was amended. This amendment provides that the Associations are not required to pay for an audit unless one is actually conducted.

Any fire departments sending money in for a audit since that date should receive their money back unless an audit is conducted.

Informational material will be sent to each Relief Association by July 1, 1977 regarding three-party contract work to have the audits conducted annually. More information regarding this or any other questions you might have about the audits can be obtained by contacting Mike Duncan, Audit Bureau Chief, Local Government Services Division, 1424 Ninth Avenue, Helena, Montana; phone number, 449-2050.

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ARSON SCHOOL

HAVRE, MONTANA

APRIL 18-21, 1977

This school is sponsored by the State Fire Marshal Bureau, Law Enforcement Academy, and Fire Service Training.

Keep these dates in mind and if you would like to attend, notify the Fire Service Training School in Great Falls or the Havre Fire Department.

This is a basic course for law enforcement personnel as well as fire service personnel. We urge all interested persons to attend.

MONTANA CHAPTER I.A.A.I. MEETING

The Montana Chapter of the I.A.A.I meeting will be held March 10, 1977 at the Montana Contractors' Association building, 1717 11th Avenue, Helena, Montana.

BE SURE TO ATTEND!

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NEW BUSINESS

Proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws will be subject to possible change.

Article I, Section. Bill Longacre suggested the following amendment:

ARTICLE I, Section 2. Object. The objectives and purposes of the Montana Chapter shall be to reduce the losses and damages to life, property and resources suffered by the citizens, taxpayers, visitors and businesses and industries of the State of Montana resulting from fires, especially those resulting from incendiarism or arson by:

- (a) uniting for mutual benefit those public officials and private persons engaged in the control of arson and kindred crimes.
- (b) providing for exchange of technical information and developments.
- (c) encouraging cooperation between public service agencies and associations to further fire prevention and the suppression of crime.
- (d) encouraging high professional standards of conduct among arson investigators and to continually strive to eliminate all factors which interfere with administration of crime suppression.
- (e) fostering greater professional competence in the investigative technique and recognition of the crime of arson.

* * *

TOUCH OF WIT

First Man: My name is Hatchplot...Sydney Hatchplot.

Second Man: I'm Brutus Thornapple

First Man: I'm down here on insurance money... ..Got \$25,000 for fire damage.

Second Man: Me, too...but I got \$50,000 for flood damage!

First Man: How do you start a flood?

MONTANA FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

GREETINGS!

The Montana Fire Prevention Association will hold its next meeting the 9th of March, 1977 at 9:00 A.M. at the Fire Marshal Bureau office in Helena. The Fire Marshal Bureau has recently moved to 1409 Helena Avenue which is near the railway station.

This Association has been formed to provide a vehicle for preventing fires and loss of life and property in the State of Montana. The means by which this is to be accomplished is to bring interested persons together to exchange ideas and work on programs which promote the goals of the Association.

Membership is open to the following: fire departments (paid and volunteer); electrical and building inspectors; architects and engineers; city and county health departments; federal, state and county agencies connected with fire prevention and life safety; and all other interested persons upon approval of the officers of the Association.

A membership fee of \$5.00 per annum is assessed each member to be used for postage and other office supplies.

Through newsletters we hope to keep members informed of events which have a bearing on the interests of the Association.

Any interested person can make application for membership by sending the following information to the Secretary-Treasurer, Ron Hetrick, 1409 Helena Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601:

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MONTANA FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME:

TITLE:

COMPLETE ADDRESS:

FIRM REPRESENTING:

* * *

YOUR FIREPLACE MAY TRY TO KILL YOU!

When properly installed, the fireplace can be a thing of comfort and beauty. Some have found, even though they thought the installation was proper, some dangerous things were overlooked which created a monster.

The Hermann Bauer family of Missoula and the Harvey Lake family of Dillon were recently involved in similar near tragic events. In both cases there were fireplaces in the homes and both homes had gas fired furnaces or water heaters in the basement. The fireplaces were allowed to burn themselves out after the families had gone to bed. The families awoke to severe headaches and nausea just in time to avoid a tragic ending.

The whole problem goes back to a fireplace installation which was considered proper. When installed they met requirements of installation and seemingly functioned well for some time. Then several factors occurred simultaneously and the result was carbon monoxide poisoning for four members of one family and six of the other.

Many older homes were not equipped with fresh air vents for gas fired furnaces and water heaters; those that were installed have been neglected to the point of becoming completely inoperative. This means that air for combustion must be drawn from inside the house. The larger sized flue of the fireplace creates a heavy draw even if properly installed. This can even happen when the fireplace is out. The heavy draw removes air from the inside of the house and can create a partial vacuum. The smaller flue of the furnace or water heater is then unable to keep up and its normal flow is reversed, allowing fresh air to come down the flue to replace air being drawn out by the fireplace. Products of combustion, containing deadly carbon monoxide, are then discharged into the house. As the process continues, the carbon monoxide is drawn through the house. This can occur at night after the fire has gone out since the warm air from inside the building is still rising up the chimney causing a draw in the flue.

All homes with fireplaces should be checked for fresh air vents that are functioning properly. This can be done quite easily by locating the vent end, which should be near the furnace or water heater, then feeling to see if cool air is being discharged while the furnace or water heater is functioning. Always keep the damper closed when not using the fireplace. If you allow the fire to burn out after you go to bed, a glass screen to cover the fireplace opening is recommended. Never try to join a new flue into an existing one if you are not completely familiar with such installations. If in doubt, get professional help; it could save your life.

* * *

The Fire Marshal Bureau would like to urge every fire department in every community in Montana to publicize the above article for the residents in your community.

The following is a list of NFPA pamphlets adopted by the State Fire Marshal Bureau for your information:

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADP. DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>EDITION</u>
10	5/5/74	Installation of Portable Fire Extinguishers	1973
AMD	9/4/75		1974
11	9/4/75	Foam Extinguishing Systems	1974
11A	9/4/75	High Expansion Foam Systems	1970
11B	9/4/75	Synthetic Foam & Combined Agent Systems	1974
12	9/4/75	Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing Systems	1973
12A	9/4/75	Halogenated Fire Ext. Agent Systems (Halon 1301)	1973
12B	9/4/75	Halogenated Fire Ext. Agent Systems (Halon 1211)	1973
13	9/4/75	Installation of Sprinkler Systems	1974
15	9/4/75	Water Spray Fixed Systems for Fire Protection	1973
16	9/4/75	Installation of Foam-Water Sprinkler & Spray Systems	1974
17	9/4/75	Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems	1973
30	1/1/68	Flammable & Combustible Liquid Code	1966
AMD	5/5/74		1973
58	5/5/74	Storage & Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gas	1972
72A	9/4/75	Installation, Maintenance & Use of Local Protective Signaling Systems for Watchman	1974
72B	9/4/75	Installation, Maintenance & Use of Auxiliary Protective Signaling Systems for Fire Alarm Service	1974
72C	9/4/75	Installation, Maintenance & Use of Remote Station Protective Signaling Systems for Fire Alarm & Supervisory Service	1974
72D	9/4/75	Installation, Maintenance & Use of Proprietary Signaling Systems for Watchman, Fire Alarm & Supervisory Service	1974
72E	9/4/75	Automatic Fire Detectors	1974
74	9/4/75	Installation, Maintenance & Use of Household Fire Warning Equipment	1974
101	1/1/68	Life Safety Code	1967
AMD	5/5/74		1973
385	5/5/74	Flammable & Combustible Liquid Tank Vehicles	1971
490	5/5/74	Storage of Ammonium Nitrate	1970
495	5/5/74	Manufacture, Transportation, Storage & Use of Explosive Materials	1973

You as a local fire official, police official, or sheriff may use these rules for enforcing fire safety in your communities. The enforcement would be through your County Attorney with his assistance and prior knowledge of the offense. A misdemeanor warrant would be procured through your Justice Court and served to the defendant.

In addition to the above mentioned NFPA pamphlets adopted as rules, the rule pertaining to the sales, service and installation of fire extinguishers, fire extinguishing systems, fire alarms and fire alarm systems was amended to delete the annual fee to a one-time initial fee of \$15.00 for a sales permit, \$5.00 for a license, and \$5.00 for one or more certificates of registration, effective 12/4/76.

Again we are asking for your support on the enforcement of the sales permit requirement of businesses that sell fire extinguishers or fire alarms. It is economically and physically impossible for this office to beat the brush in our big state to locate people and firms who are selling, installing and servicing fire alarms, alarm systems, extinguishers and extinguishing systems. When you know of any such activity, ask them to show you a permit, license or certificate. If they can't, file a complaint with a Justice Court with your County Attorney's approval. Let us know and we will assist you.

At the present time there are 284 sales permits issued, 82 licenses issued and 232 certificates of registration issued.

DEATH BENEFITS ACT PASSED

In late September the U.S. Congress passed and President Ford signed legislation that awards death benefits to the survivors of public safety officers who die in the line of duty. The Public Safety Officers' Benefits Act of 1976 amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. It provides that \$50,000 shall be paid to the survivors of a public safety officer who "has died as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty."

The Act's definition of a public safety officer includes both paid fire-fighters and unpaid members of legally organized volunteer fire departments.

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FIRE DRILLS PAY OFF

How many times have you heard the comment, "Not another fire drill!?" Too often we become complacent with our ability to react properly in an emergency. Experience has shown that if we do not rehearse procedures, much confusion can occur when those procedures are to be carried out in a stress situation.

One of the things every fire inspector is interested in is, "How often are fire drill conducted?". The answer might well determine if an emergency situation could be handled as it was recently in Conrad, Montana.

December 29, 1976 the fire department received an alarm--a Christmas tree fire in a rest home. Upon arrival at the scene the firemen were relieved to discover that due to quick action by the staff, the fire had been extinguished with a portable fire extinguisher and little damage occurred. The staff on every shift at this particular rest home have participated in a fire drill every month for the past several years.

The State Fire Marshal has long promoted serious fire training and fire drills for staff members of all nursing homes, rest homes and other institutional occupancies. In this situation it paid off. We urge all departments to stress the importance of frequent training in emergency situations to all such occupancy personnel in your inspection areas.

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AN EXTENSION TELEPHONE, NOW LOCATED IN THE LETS BUREAU, GIVES A 24 HOUR, 7 DAY A WEEK EMERGENCY NUMBER FOR CONTACTING THE FIRE MARSHAL BUREAU. FOR ANY FIRE RELATED EMERGENCY, CALL 449-2050 AND A DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL WILL BE CONTACTED AND RETURN YOUR CALL.

ATTENTION: OUR NEW LOCATION IS 1409 HELENA AVENUE.

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| 271 | To repeal section 11-1932, R.C.M. 1947, which sets a minimum wage for firefighters in cities of first and second class. | Local government |
| 275 | To provide that certificates of volunteer fire companies shall be filed annually instead of quarterly. | Senate |
| 459 | To increase the maximum pension paid by a relief association to volunteers from \$75 to \$100. | Local government |
| HJR 7 | To provide that no permit shall be issued for an open fire or open burning without the prior approval of a fire chief or other appropriate official. | Judiciary |
| HJR 9 | To direct the department of administration to publicize and encourage the use and maintenance of smoke detectors in buildings constructed in Montana. | Third Reading |

SENATE BILLS

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|-----|---|-----------------|
| 43 | Providing the state, counties, towns, and the officers, agents, and employees of those entities immunity from suit for injury. | House judiciary |
| 183 | Increasing the maximum which may be paid under the volunteer firemen's pension plan in unincorporated areas from \$50 to \$100. | Administration |
| 337 | Including the destruction of property by fire with the purpose to defraud an insurer in the definition of arson. | Judiciary |

NUMBERS NOT ASSIGNED YET

Hospitals, doctors, etc. be required to report burn treatment to state fire marshal.

Require penal institutions to report release of inmates committed because of fire to the state fire marshal.

Bill to transfer state fire marshal into department of administration.

Previously noted bills directly effect fire services. Following is a list of bills by number effecting law enforcement.

HOUSE BILLS

63; 72; 122; 177; 195; 226; 326;
382; 439; 440; 442; 457; 461; 498;
513; 589

SENATE BILLS

32; 34; 42; 43; 174; 274;
278; 336

To find out locally what each one of these bills specifically covers, contact your local Chamber of Commerce, city or county offices. If you are unable to secure the information desired from these sources, contact our office and we will provide you with information.

STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE BILLS RELATING TO FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND SHERIFF OFFICES

HOUSE BILLS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Referred to</u>
62	Generally revise and clarify laws relating to firemen's retirement and death and disability benefits.	Administration
66	To create a fire services training school in the Board of Education.	Second reading
67	To create a fire marshal advisory council and increase the fire marshal tax 1/4 of 1%.	Transmitted to Senate
68	Remove barriers for more efficient delivery of forest fire protection services to Montana's forest and farm resources.	Administration
90	To revise and clarify certain laws governing the fire marshal bureau; directing establishment of a fire marshal advisory council.	Administration
109	To require any group health insurance plan provided by a city or town or a fire department relief association that covers firemen.	Administration
122	For general revision of laws relating to county and municipal government. (This is the big bill giving local government more authority).	Local Government
123	Proposes to require the state to furnish fire protection for their buildings or contract with local fire departments.	Local government
124	For the general revision of laws governing fire services in municipalities and counties.	Local government
178	Require the department of justice to compile and make available in pamphlet form all Montana statutes relating to fire protection.	Administration
203	To provide that fire protection tax assessments be deposited in the federal and private revenue fund.	Administration
235	To require that the chief of a fire department be notified of any proposed fire inspection within his fire jurisdiction.	Killed
263	To provide a partial service pension for paid firemen.	Administration

FROM THE DESK OF THE FIRE MARSHAL:

We are started on a new year and with that thought in mind it always occurs to us that it is important to evaluate where we are in this matter of fire protection and prevention and where do we plan to go. Let's hope that most of you fire chiefs will see fit to discuss this very subject with the members of your fire department.

You will notice in the enclosed annual report that our property fire loss is astronomical even though two-thirds of the fire departments did not submit any fire loss reports to this office. We can only assume that our fire loss figure for 1976 is probably very close to \$20,000,000 if those of you in the "not reporting" two-thirds had reported your fires.

There is no denying that this amount of property loss is a serious problem in our state and deserves every bit of effort on the part of all our citizenry to stop this waste. However, it seems that the lack of understanding on the part of those chiefs in this two-thirds group who lack interest and desire to do something about the fire loss is really the most serious problem the fire service faces in Montana. Somehow we must get every fire chief to be concerned about his responsibilities and duties and realize that he should not ignore them before we can begin to make any headway in reducing the loss picture. If any of you have some ideas that will help accomplish this indoctrination of fire chiefs we would appreciate hearing from you.

There is one bill in the Legislature, House Bill 67, which is now over in the Senate, which may have some impact on this lack of interest in fire prevention by this disinterested two-thirds. House Bill 67 proposes to provide additional revenue from the State Fire Marshal tax which will amount to \$70,000 annually. This will be distributed to local county governments and local fire departments as an incentive for developing and providing fire prevention on a local level.

There will be no appreciable reduction of the fire loss without the effort and drive of the local fire departments. What we can do specifically on a state level has very little effect on the total picture. We can only serve most effectively as a source of information and guidance. We can only perform these functions effectively if we know what the specific problems are. There is no way to determine what the specific problems are without good valid documentation by the fire departments on their 901 fire report forms. Help us do the job the way it should be done.

The Fire Marshal office has a new boss, Attorney General Mike Greely. Indications are that he is concerned with our work and will take an active interest.

There will be a Senate Bill introduced by Senator Lowe to transfer us into the Department of Administration. Whether this is good or bad, we're not sure yet.

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FIRE MARSHAL NEWSLETTER



FEB 4 1977



JANUARY 1977

